

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the title on line 1, page 1 of the specification as follows:

--~~COMPRESSION STRUT~~ EXTENSION SPRING STRUT--

Please replace the first full paragraph beginning line 7 on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention relates to a ~~compression strut~~ an extension spring strut, comprising a pre-loaded extension spring and an integrated damper as employed for example as lifting aids in trunk lids or engine hoods of passenger cars.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 23 on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--It is an object of the invention to embody a ~~compression strut~~ an extension spring strut of the type mentioned at the outset such that the motion of displacement is damped only in a final stage.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 11 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a ~~compression strut~~ an extension spring strut according to the invention when contracted;--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 14 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 2 is an illustration of part of the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut on an enlarged scale as compared to Fig. 1;--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 17 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 3 is a view of the ~~compressed strut~~ extension spring strut when extended;--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 19 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 4 is an illustration of the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut employed as a lifting aid for a trunk lid which is illustrated when opened; and--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 22 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 5 is a view of the ~~compressed strut~~ extension spring strut with the trunk lid closed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 26 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--The ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut seen in the drawing comprises a helical extension spring 1 which inside includes a guiding and damping unit 3 coaxially of its central longitudinal axis 2. This unit 3 comprises a - related to the entire length of the unit 3 - short hydraulic damper 4 and an operating element 5.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 27 on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

--A comparison of Figs. 1 and 2 on the one hand and 3 on the other shows that elongation of the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut takes place by opposite tensile forces being applied to the fastening elements 19, 20. The actuating tappet 11 is lifted off the piston rod 8 which is pushed by the extension spring 9 as far as possible out of the housing 6. The actuating tappet 11 is almost frictionlessly extended from the guide tube 10.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 5 on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--When the extension spring 1 is released and contracts, the actuating tappet 11 is pushed into the guide

tube 10 nearly free from friction and thus non damped. It will bear against the free end of the piston rod 8 right before termination of linear contraction of the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut, pushing the piston rod 8 into the housing 6 by corresponding hydraulic damping. This means that only the maximal length of displacement of the piston rod 8 is damped, constituting a damping range a. As opposed to this, the no-load range b given by the distance of the extended piston rod 8 from the extended actuating tappet 11 as seen in Fig. 3 is non damped. As seen in the drawing,  $b > a$  applies. Consequently, only a short range is damped of the total range  $c = a + b$ .--

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 17 on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figs. 4 and 5 diagrammatically illustrate the use of a ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut according to the invention in a vehicle, only the rear portion of which is illustrated. It includes part of the body 21, the rear wheels 22 and a trunk 23 which is closable by a trunk lid 24. The trunk lid 24 is pivotable about a pivot 25 into an opened position (Fig. 4) and a closed position (Fig. 5).

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 23 on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--The ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut is articulated by its fastening element 19 to an articulation point 26 on the body 21 in the vicinity of the trunk 23, and by its fastening element 20 to an articulation point 27 on the lid 24. The connection is such that the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut is being elongated upon closing of the trunk i.e., the extension spring 1 continues to be pre-loaded, whereas opening the lid 24 will lead to linear contraction i.e., release of the extension spring 1, with the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut shortening. The distance of the point 27 where the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut is articulated to the lid 24, from the point 26 of articulation to the body 21 is reduced upon opening of the lid 24. Lifting the trunk lid 24 is thus supported by the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut. As seen from the above description of the ~~compression strut~~ extension spring strut, the actuating tappet 11 will bear against the piston rod 8 of the damper 4 only at the end of the motion of opening the trunk lid 24 so that the motion of opening the lid 24 from the closed position (Fig. 5) is substantially non damped, damping taking place only shortly before the entirely opened position (Fig. 4) is reached.--